



Series: Dealing with Temptation

Passage Judges 13-16

Title: The Decay of Temptation

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper– 10/13/2019

Discussion Starter

Why are we often blinded to the decaying effects of temptation in our lives?

Set Apart for God (Judges 13)

- What is the background and environment like at this time leading into the story of Samson's birth? How does this compare to the environment the newborn children of today face?
- Why do you think God chose this couple? What is unique about them?
- What do you see as the purpose for letting Manoah's and his wife know that they would have to bring up their child to maintain a lifelong vow of a Nazarite? Read Numbers 6:1-9. What additional important insights are gained from these verses on the requirements of the Nazarite vow?
- How well equipped do you think Samson's parents were to be able to raise him up in this calling that God has given for his life? What are some of the spiritual maturity indicators we see mentioned in how they respond to the visit from the Angel of the LORD?
- How do we see the importance of equipping ourselves in our role as parents raising our children to be separated to God?

The Decay of Temptation (Genesis 14-16)

- What are some of the lessons we learn about temptation, Samson's outward appearance and his inward character from this trip to Timnah?
- Where do you see God warning Samson and how does Samson respond to these warnings? In what ways does God warn us when we are being tempted? Read 1 Corinthians 10:11-14. What instruction are we given in these verses and how do we apply them when we are tempted?
- What does the lion and the honey represent in this story as to the cause and effect of yielding into temptations? Why do you think Samson does not tell his parents about this story?
- What was the motivation behind Samson's riddle, do you think this was part of God's plan? Why or why not?
- What are some of the problems we see here with falling in love with his wife who was the enemy, the Philistines? What was Samson's weakness here? What areas are our weaknesses when it comes to temptation?
- How do we see this temptation of Samson being finally redeemed by the supernatural strength of Jesus?
- What is the significance you see in the Spirit coming upon Samson? What does the Spirit enable him to do and what does it not enable him to do? What lessons can we learn from this example?